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**NEWS**

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ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION  
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Bureau of the Census

This release contains sensitive economic  
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Wednesday,  
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**Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products**  
**April 2002**

The Bureau of the Census, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary April steel imports were **\$0.8 billion (1.7 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same value and a decrease of 0.1 million metric tons from the preliminary March totals of \$0.8 billion (1.8 million metric tons).

The March to April change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs and plates cut lengths. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Russia and Germany.

The year to date final statistics through March of 2002 showed steel imports of 7.5 million metric tons, an increase of 1.2 million metric tons from the 6.2 million metric tons through March of 2001. The largest commodity increase was in blooms, billets and slabs. The largest country increases were with Brazil and Russia.

**Notes:**

**The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.**

*Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/). On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.*

*The next release is June 25, 2002*

## Notice

Effective March 20, new duties were imposed on steel products under the safeguard measures provision of the Trade Act of 1974. This release includes new exhibits (Exhibits 5 and 6) that provide information on imports of goods by Section 201 remedy category. Users should note that:

1. The categories are aggregations of steel products defined by the Harmonized Tariff Schedule and include some transactions that are not subject to the safeguard measures.
2. The product category aggregations in Exhibit 5 show imports from all countries, not just those subject to the safeguard measures.
3. The countries in Exhibit 6 show steel imports from countries primarily excluded from the safeguard measures, however, these measures may apply to some transactions from some countries in this exhibit.